MARVEL LEGACY RED LEDGER PART 1 (OF 5)

100

TALES OF SUSPENSE

featuring

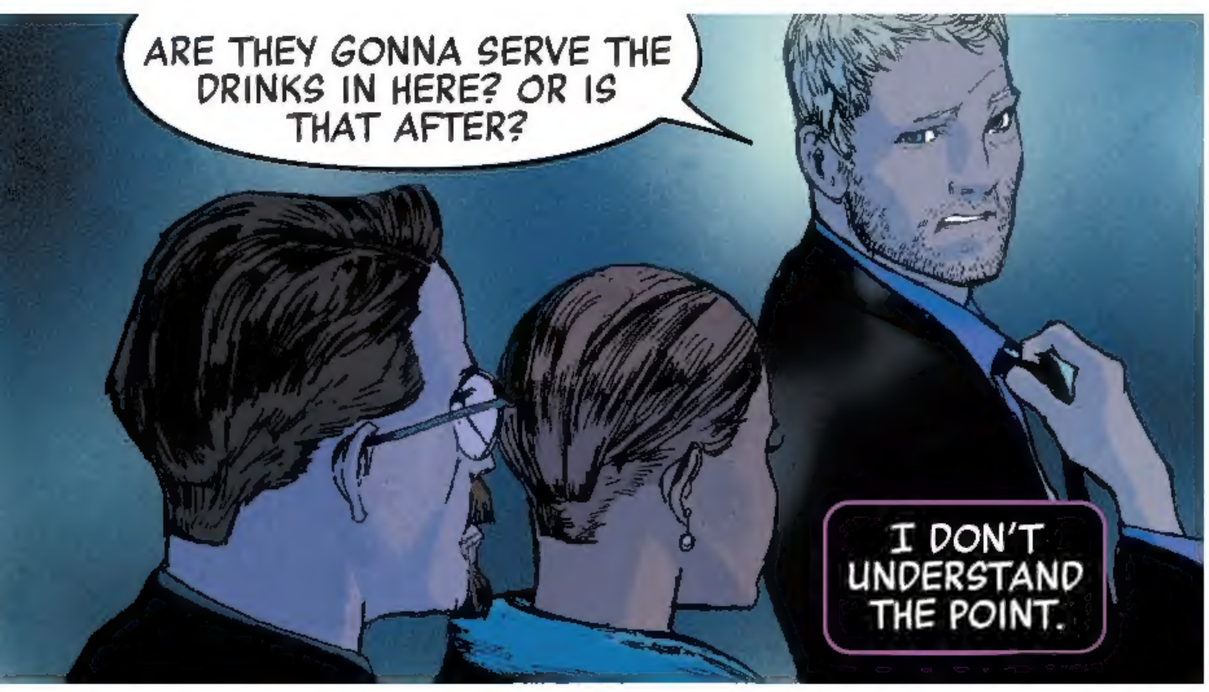
HAWKEYE®

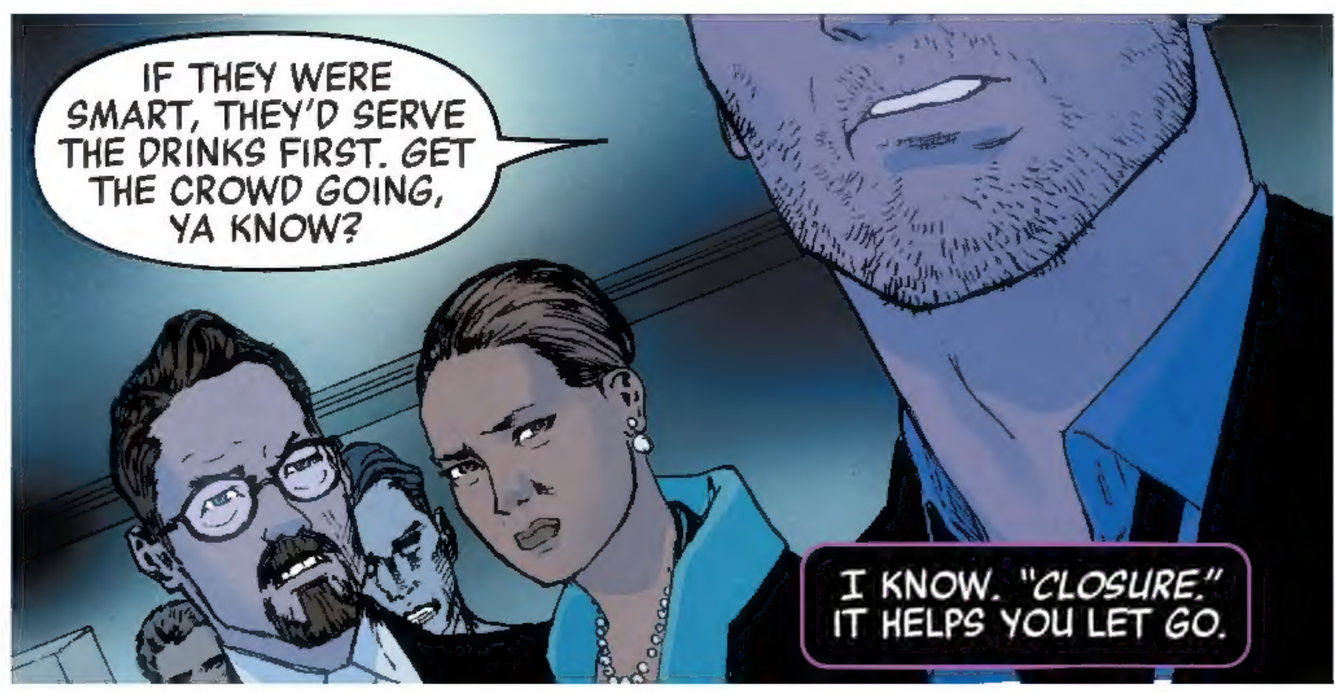
and the

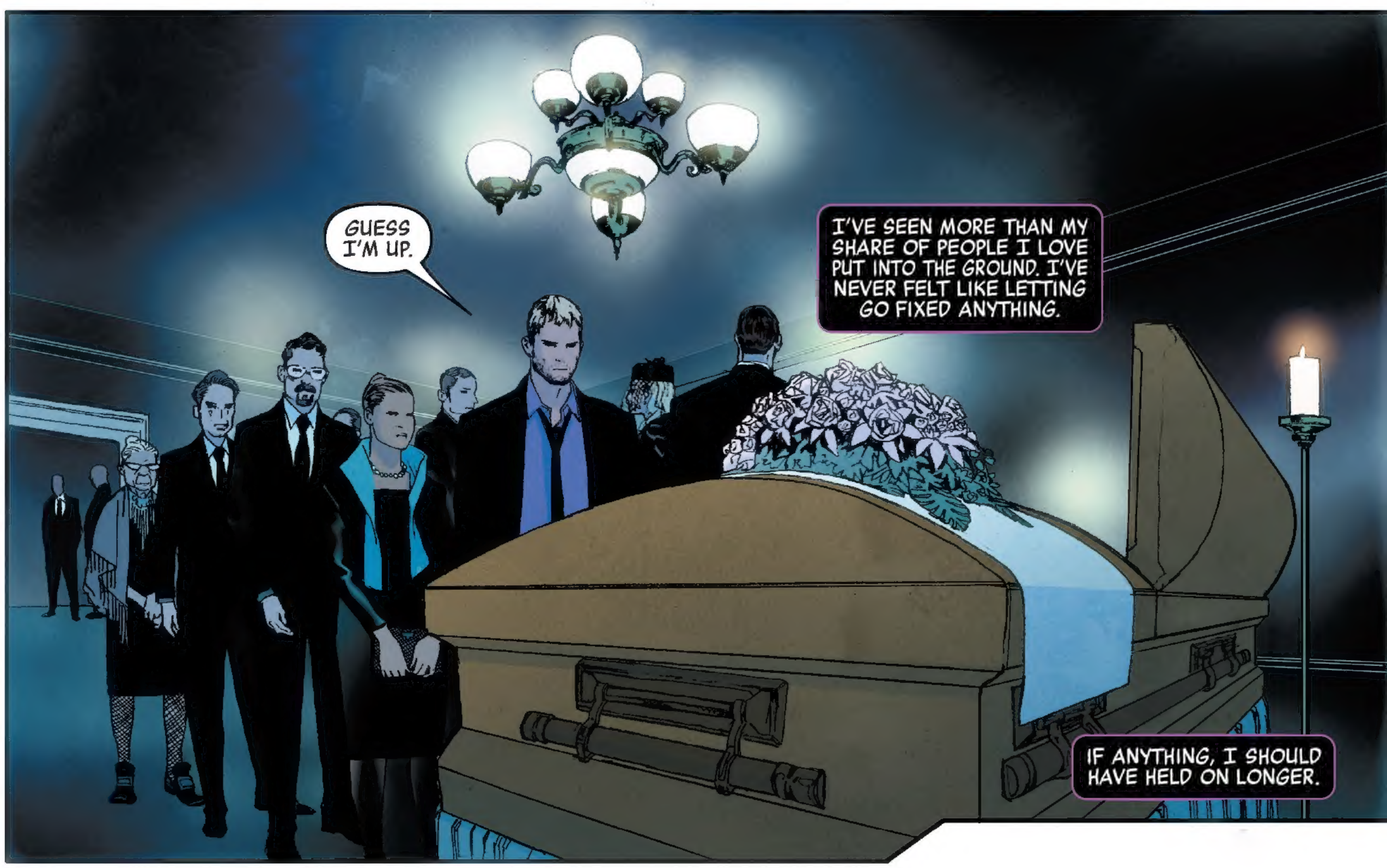
WINTER SOLDIER™

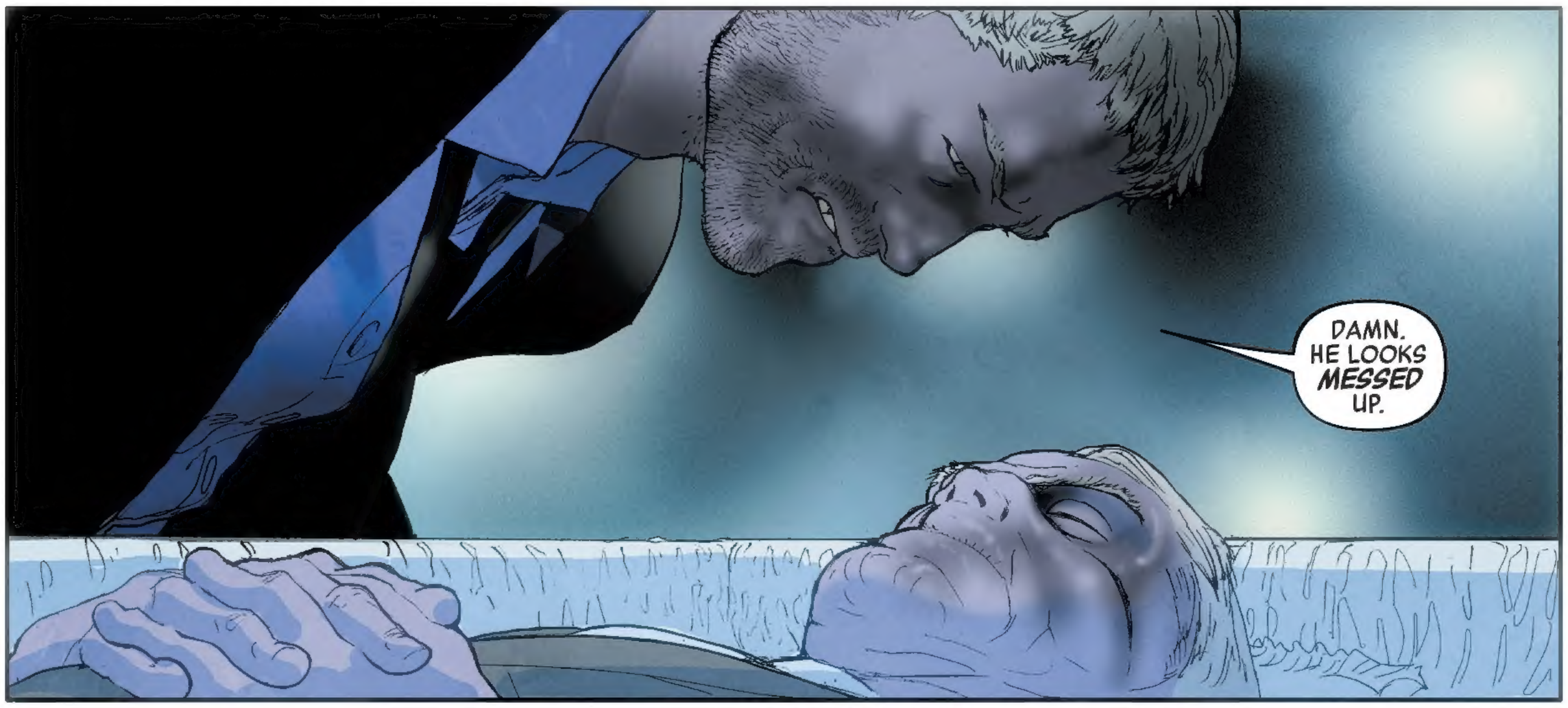
ROSENBERG
FOREMAN
ROSENBERG

I HATE THESE THINGS.

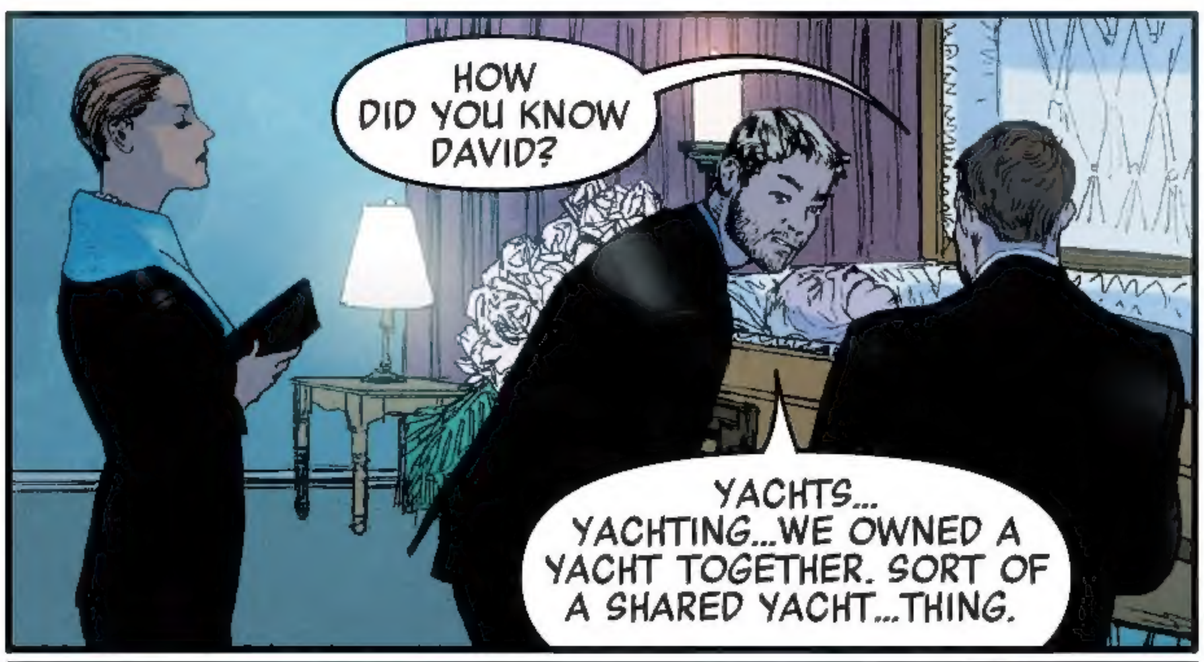

ARE THEY GONNA SERVE THE DRINKS IN HERE? OR IS THAT AFTER?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POINT.


IF THEY WERE SMART, THEY'D SERVE THE DRINKS FIRST. GET THE CROWD GOING, YA KNOW?
I KNOW. "CLOSURE." IT HELPS YOU LET GO.


GUESS I'M UP.
I'VE SEEN MORE THAN MY SHARE OF PEOPLE I LOVE PUT INTO THE GROUND. I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE LETTING GO FIXED ANYTHING.
IF ANYTHING, I SHOULD HAVE HELD ON LONGER.


DAMN. HE LOOKS MESSED UP.

OR MAYBE HE ALWAYS LOOKED LIKE THAT.
I'M SORRY, WHO ARE YOU?
CLINT. AND YOU ARE?


HOW DID YOU KNOW DAVID?
YACHTS... YACHTING...WE OWNED A YACHT TOGETHER. SORT OF A SHARED YACHT...THING.

AND HOW DID YOU KNOW DAVID?
WE WORKED TOGETHER.
RIIIIGHT.

HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? I'VE HEARD--
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I FIND YOU QUITE UNPLEASANT.
A LOT OF PEOPLE DO...

WAIT, WHERE'D YOU GET THAT DRINK?
THIS IS GOING WELL.
HELLO...

WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME'S CLINT.
CLINT WHAT?

YACHT.
STUPID.
BUT NOT SPELLED THE WAY YOU'RE THINKING.
BETTER.
MY NAME IS PETER ANTONE.

LOTTA SECURITY YOU GOT HERE, PETER.
SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE MET WITH UNFORTUNATE ENDS RECENTLY, AS YOU CAN SEE. AND ONE CAN NEVER BE TOO SAFE IN MY LINE OF WORK.
AND WHAT *IS* IT YOU DO, PETER?

I'M THE AMBASSADOR TO CHERNAYA.
THAT'S A COUNTRY, RIGHT?
IT IS. YOU SHOULD VISIT SOME TIME.
YEAH? CAN I CRASH ON YOUR COUCH?

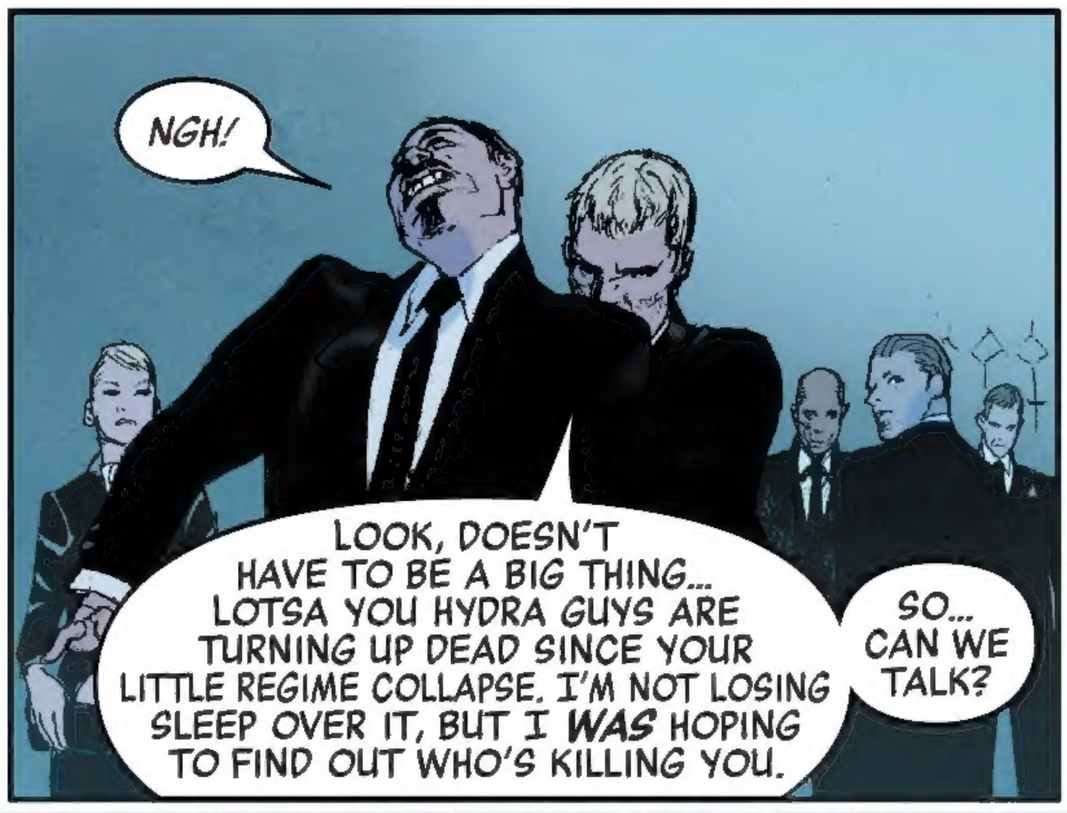
CLINT, THIS IS A PRIVATE SERVICE. I HAVE A FLIGHT HOME WITHIN THE HOUR AND I WAS HOPING TO SPEND THIS TIME WITH MY *FRIENDS*.
EASY, FELLAS. IT'S COOL.

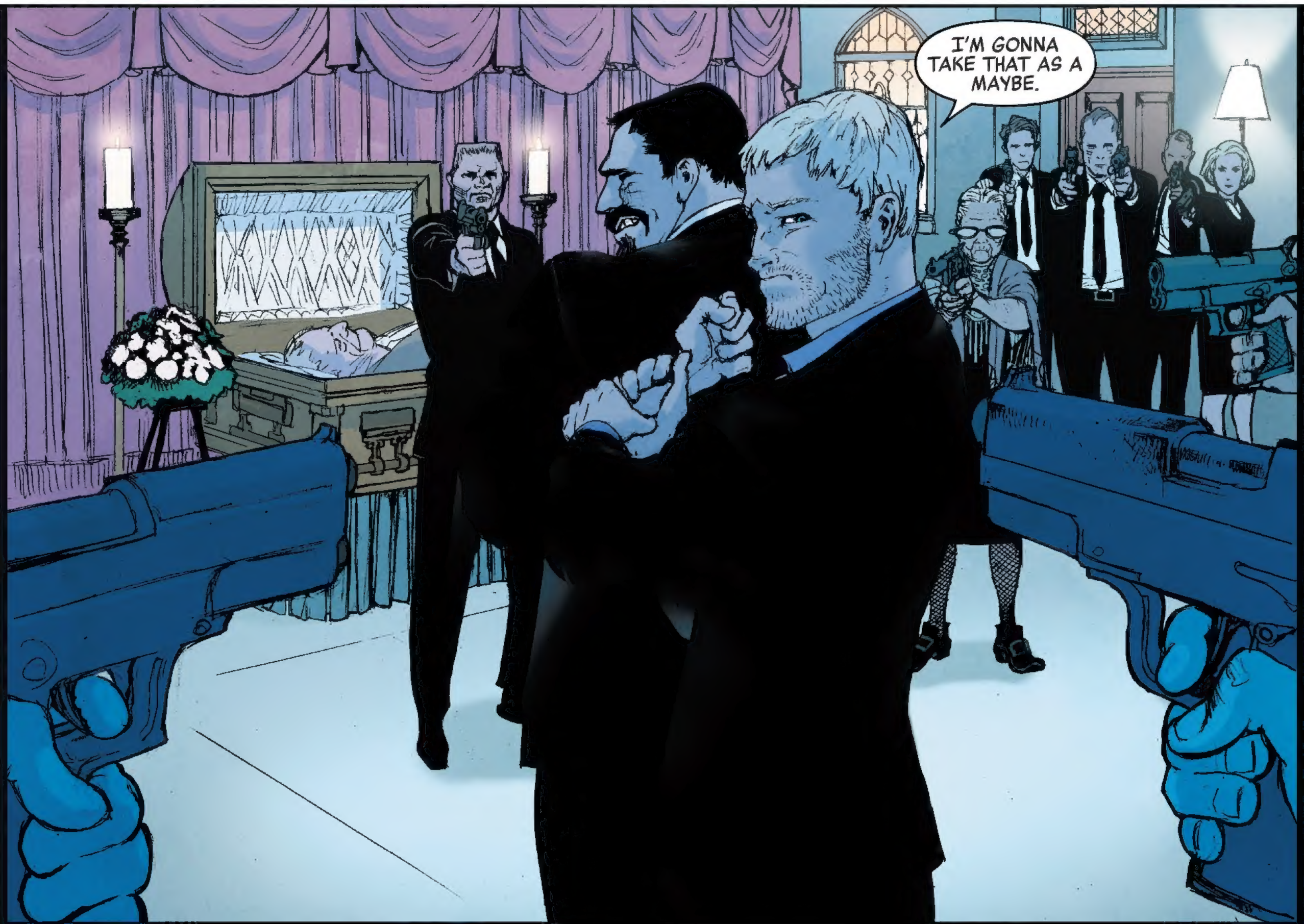
HAIL HYDRA.

I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

...MR. BARTON.
#$@%.

#$@%.

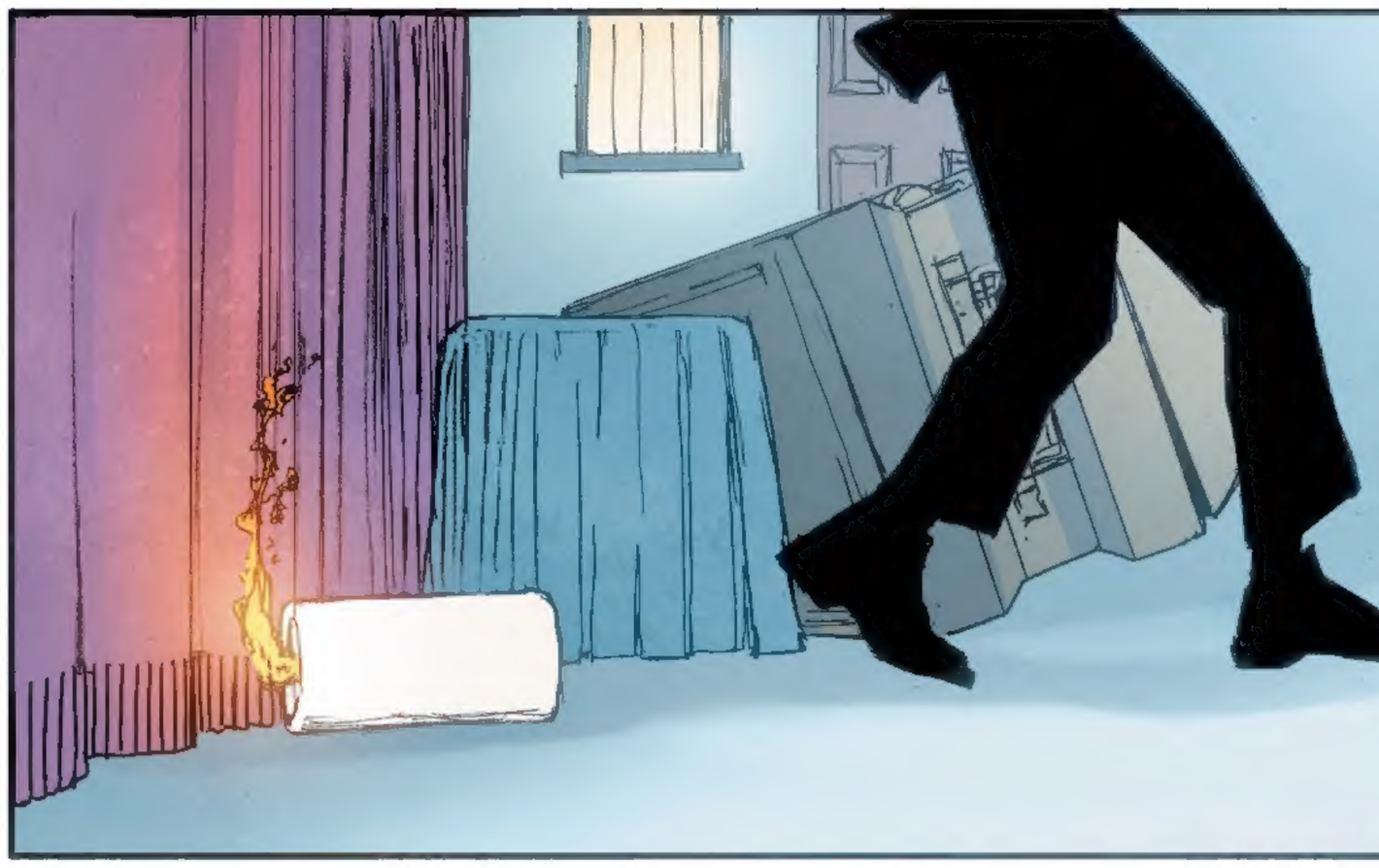

NGH!
LOOK, DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A BIG THING... LOTSA YOU HYDRA GUYS ARE TURNING UP DEAD SINCE YOUR LITTLE REGIME COLLAPSE. I'M NOT LOSING SLEEP OVER IT, BUT I WAS HOPING TO FIND OUT WHO'S KILLING YOU.
SO... CAN WE TALK?


I'M GONNA TAKE THAT AS A MAYBE.

OKAY. THIS ISN'T WORKING.

I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

OOPS. NOT MY FAULT?



OKAY. THIS ONE MIGHT BE MY FAULT.

BOBBI ALWAYS SAID IT, BUT I THINK I CAN FINALLY ADMIT I'M NOT GREAT AT THIS "SPY STUFF."

I DON'T KNOW HOW NATASHA DOES IT...
DID IT.

DOES IT.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
OH, NO. THAT EXTINGUISHER WAS FOR THE *FIRE*, WASN'T IT?
YEAH. UNDERCOVER IS NOT FOR ME.

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TALES OF SUSPENSE

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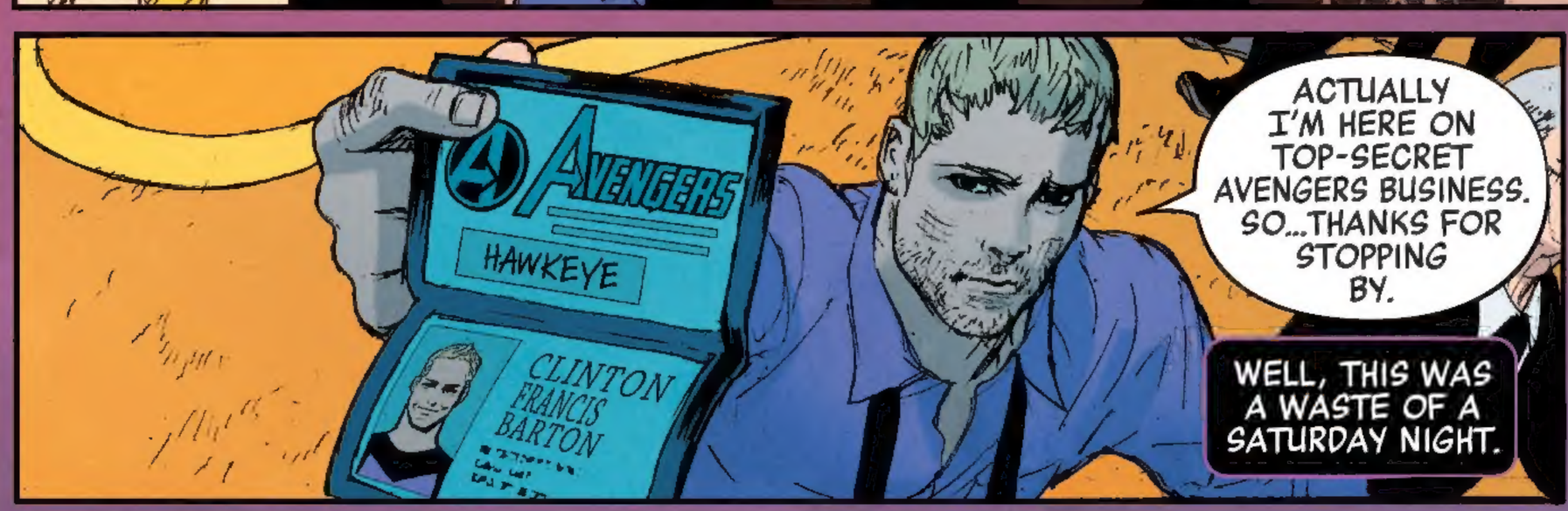
LOOK, ALL I'M SAYING IS, YES, THIS IS PARTIALLY MY FAULT, BUT NOBODY MADE YOU THROW A PARTY FOR A BUNCH OF TERRORISTS.

IT WAS A *FUNERAL*/ I RUN A *FUNERAL HOME!*

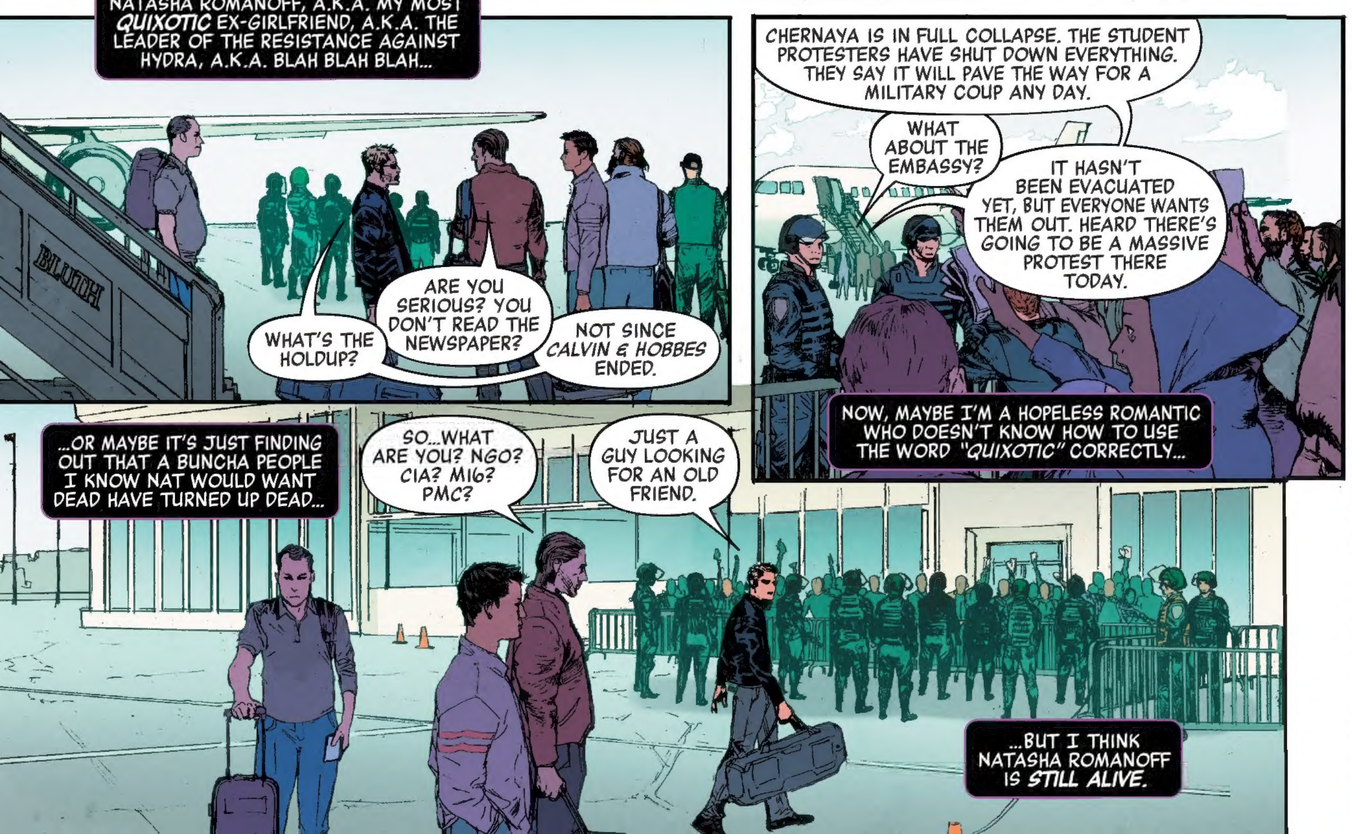
ON HECK
EMORIAL HOME
EST. 1959



"ANY OF YOU GUYS EVER HEARD OF CHERNAYA?"

IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE CAPTAIN AMERICA, A.K.A. STEVE ROGERS, A.K.A. MY FORMER CLOSE FRIEND AND MENTOR, A.K.A. SUPREME LEADER OF HYDRA, A.K.A. AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS TRAITOR...

...KILLED THE BLACK WIDOW, A.K.A. NATASHA ROMANOFF, A.K.A. MY MOST *QUIXOTIC* EX-GIRLFRIEND, A.K.A. THE LEADER OF THE RESISTANCE AGAINST HYDRA, A.K.A. BLAH BLAH BLAH...



THIS WAS EASY.
TOO EASY.
I DON'T WANT TO THINK THIS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHY I'M HERE...
...BUT IF YOU IGNORE ENOUGH COINCIDENCES, YOU END UP DEAD.

THAT'S WHAT NATASHA ALWAYS SAID. IS THAT IRONY? THAT FEELS LIKE IRONY.

EITHER WAY, HERE I AM.

MY GUT TELLS ME THAT ALL OF THIS WAS TO MAKE SURE SOMEONE ELSE COULD GET HERE, TOO.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES O

ПОЛИЦИЯ
POLIS

THIS IS A CLASSIC PLAY. CONCENTRATE AND REDIRECT. DRAW ALL OF YOUR ENEMY'S FORCES TOGETHER AND THEN SHIFT THEIR FOCUS WITH A DIVERSION.

NOW ALL THAT'S MISSING IS THAT DIVERSION.

WHOOM

THERE IT IS.

ДИВО

WHOEVER SET ALL OF THIS UP MUST ALREADY BE MAKING THEIR WAY INSIDE.

I DON'T HAVE LONG.

IF YOU COULD KEEP THAT ZIP TIE LOOSE, I USE MY HANDS--

OR NOT.

NAT?!

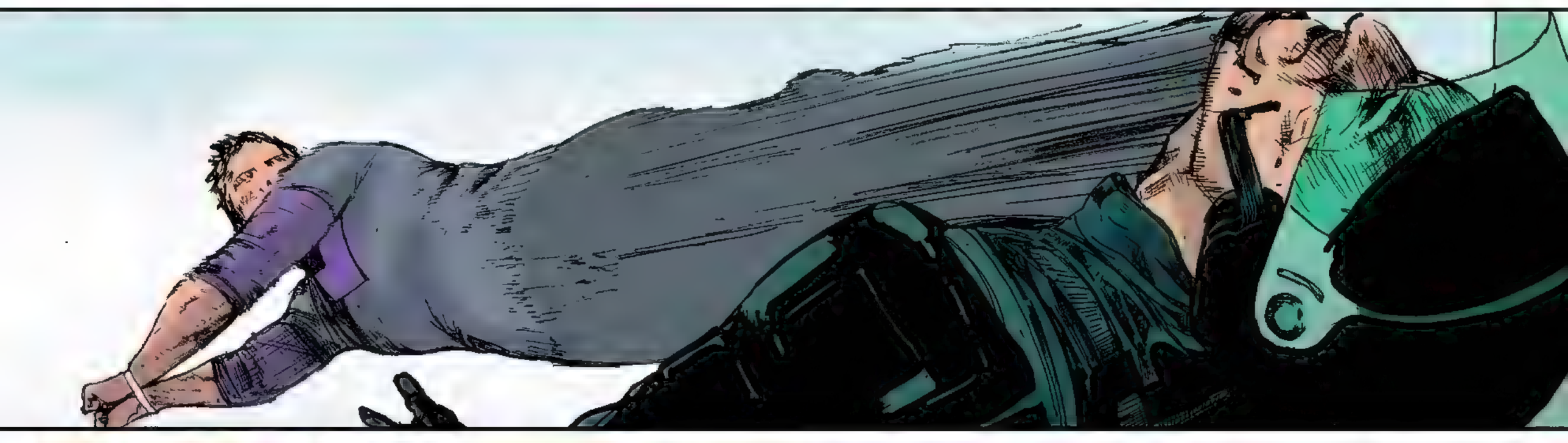
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU GUYS CARE THAT I'VE SAVED THE WORLD A BUNCH OF TIMES, RIGHT?

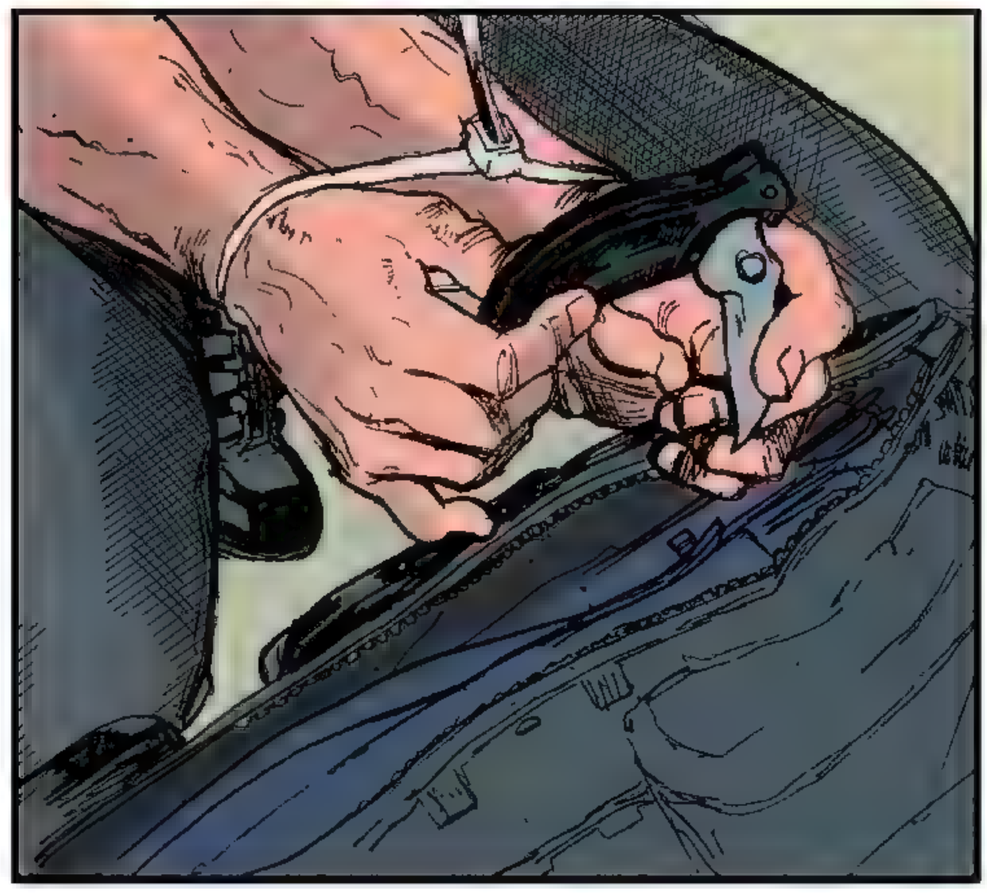
IT WASN'T NAT.

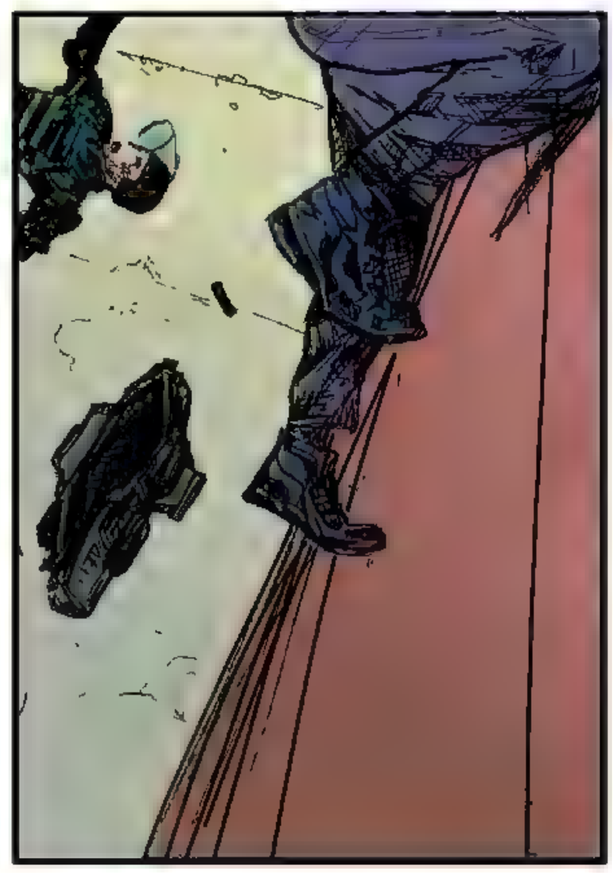
I SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE LEARNED HOW TO SAY THAT IN YOUR LANGUAGE, I GUESS.

WAS IT?

GOTTA MOVE QUICK...

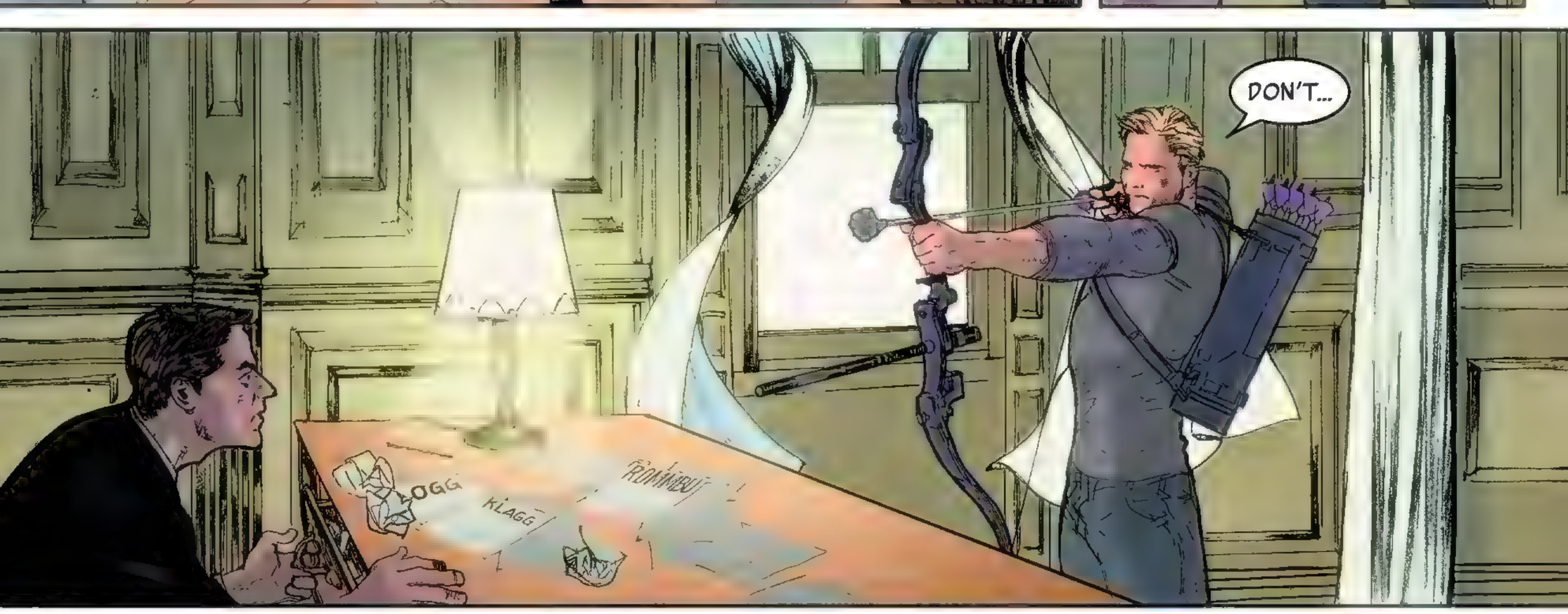






ZAKHORR
OGG
KLAGG
ROMMBU

OH, GOOD, ANTONE. YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET.
SHE'S NOT HERE YET.


DON'T...
OGG
KLAGG
ROMMBU

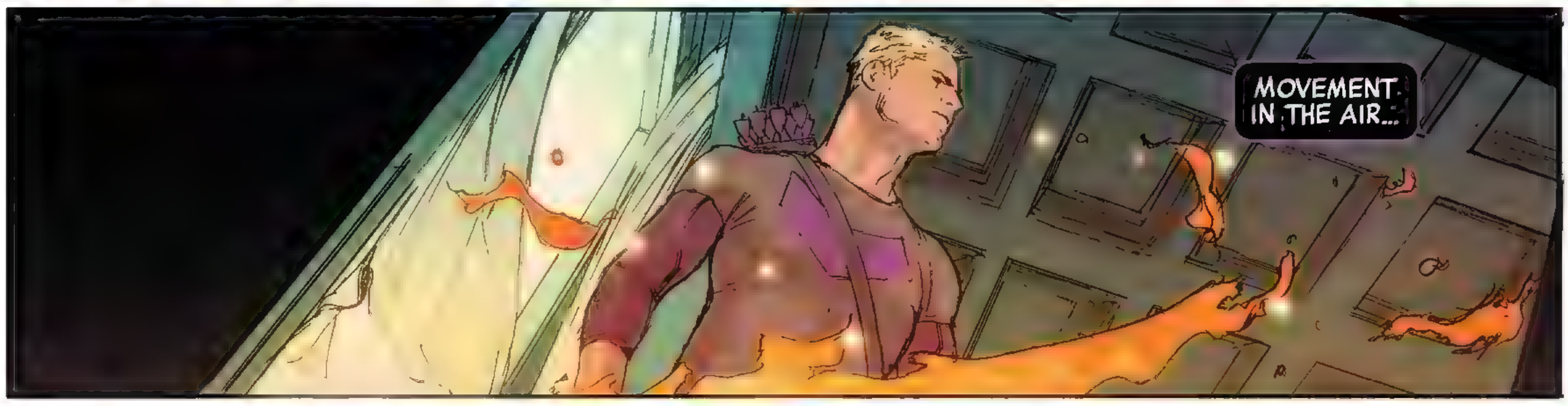
PLEASE! I'M SO SORRY! I ADMIT IT. I WAS IN HYDRA HIGH COMMAND. BUT--

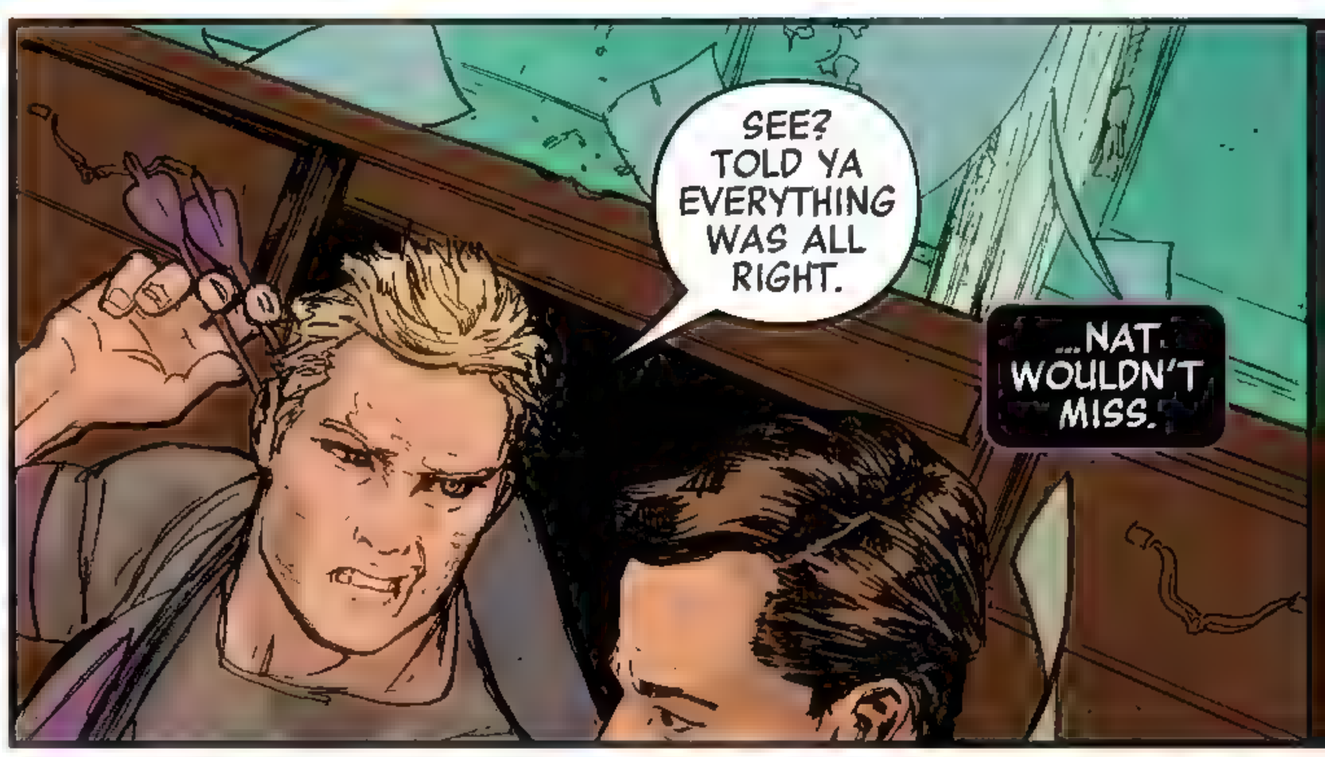
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, BUT SHE'S COMING.
CLICK
OKAY. CALM DOWN, MY LITTLE FASCIST FRIEND. EVERYTHING'S FINE.

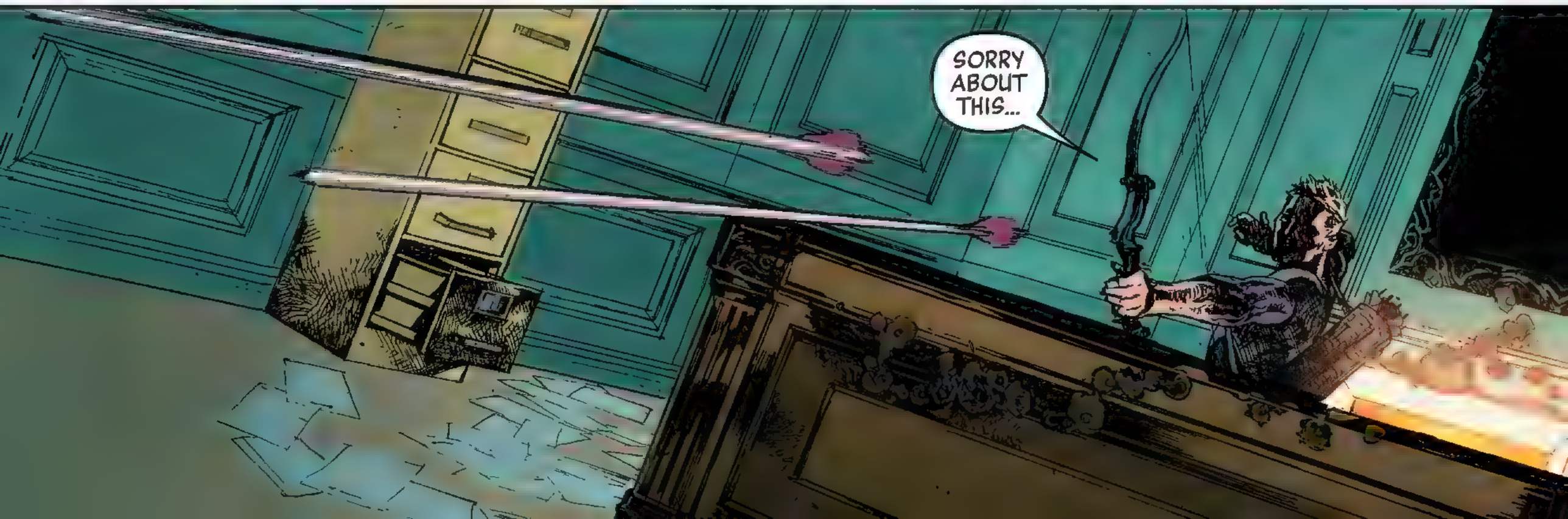
AT THE FUNERAL, I KNEW YOU WERE COMING TO KILL ME!

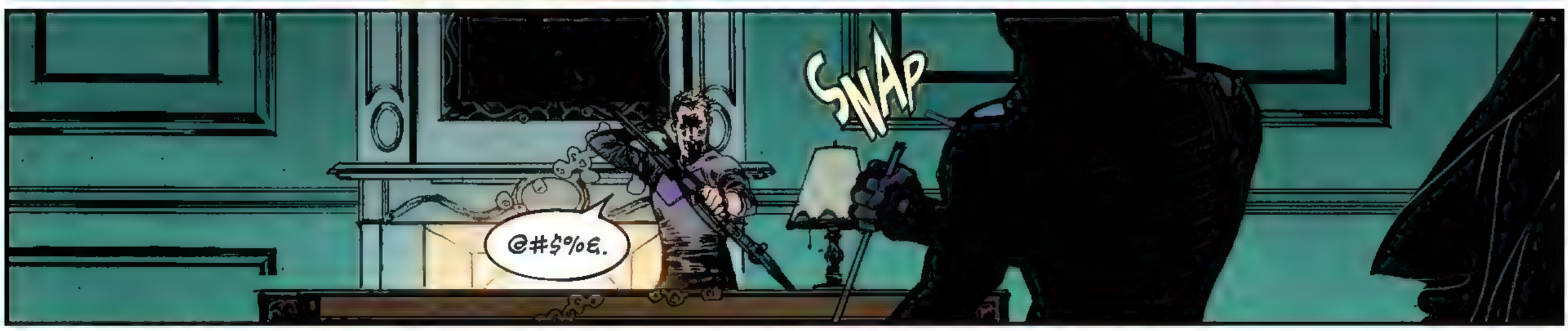
KILL YOU? I CAME HERE TO *SAVE* YOU, PAL.

SORTA.





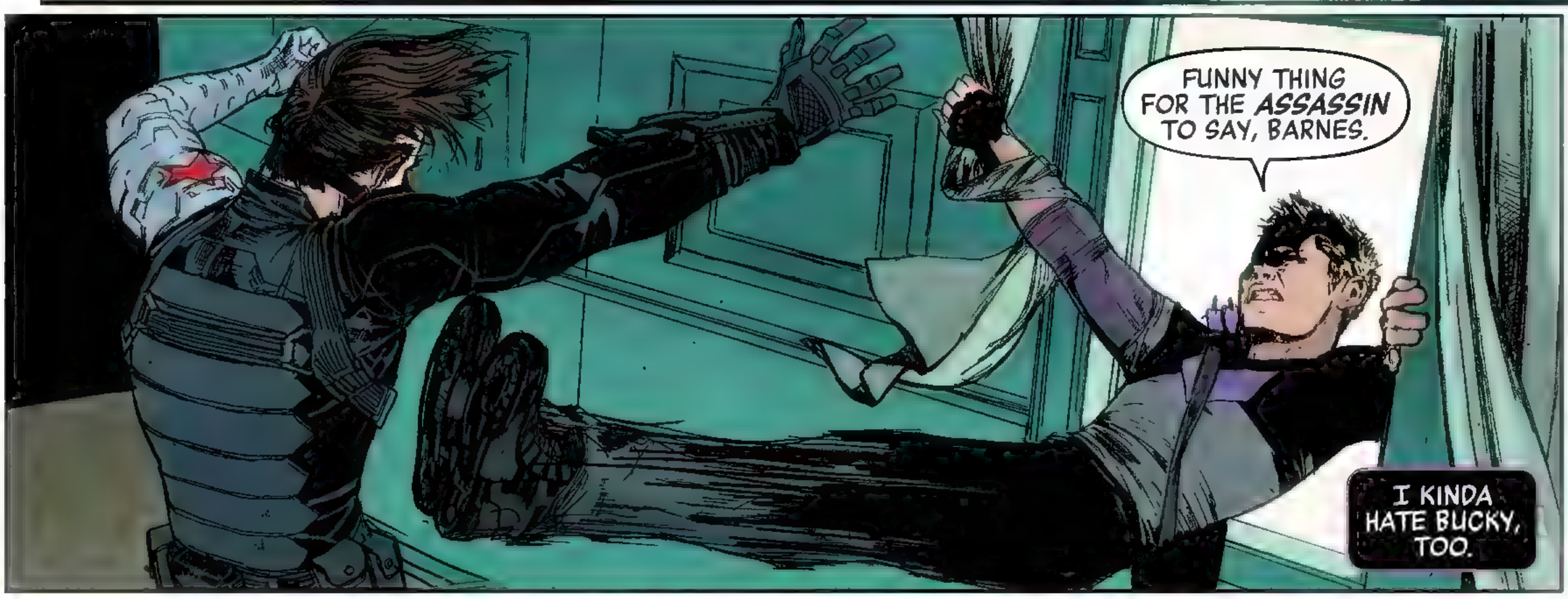




BUCKY?!

BUCKY BARNES, A.K.A. THE WINTER SOLDIER, A.K.A. THE BEAKER TO CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BUNSEN HONEYDEW, A.K.A. FORMER U.S. CHILD SOLDIER TURNED RUSSIAN KILLING MACHINE TURNED UNBELIEVABLY POMPOUS JERK...

OH, AND HE'S ALSO NAT'S EX-BOYFRIEND.
I KNOW.


FUNNY THING FOR THE ASSASSIN TO SAY, BARNES.
I KINDA HATE BUCKY, TOO.

I DIDN'T TAKE YOU FOR SOMEONE WHO'D BE OKAY WITH KILLING UNARMED MEN.
THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE TO STOP YOU.

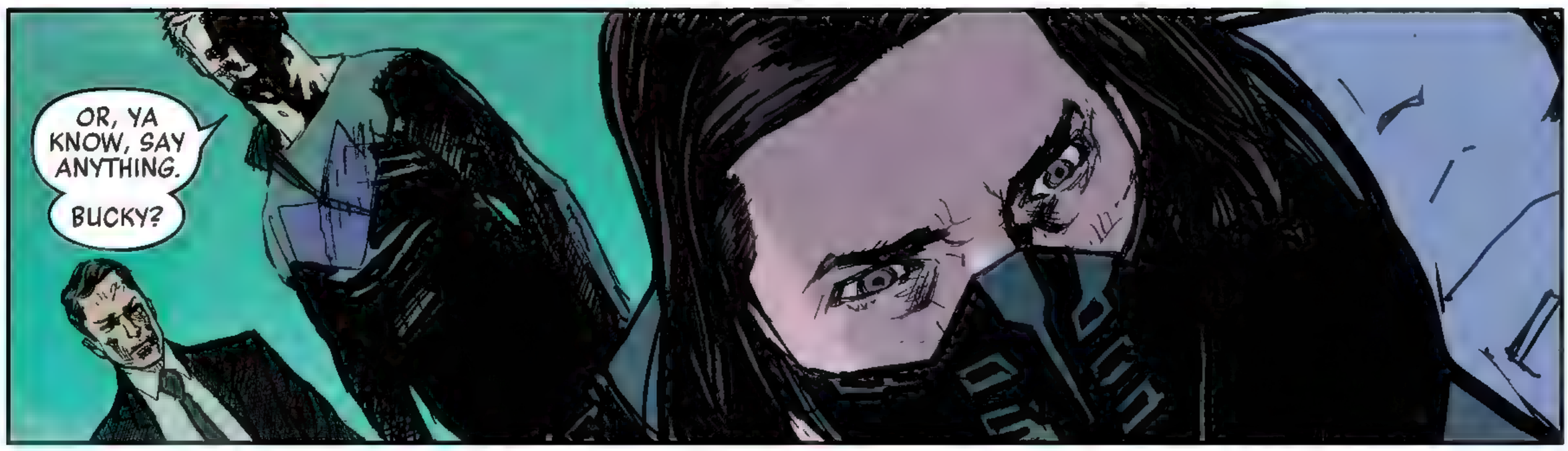
I...CAME HERE TO STOP YOU.
YOU CAME HERE TO STOP ME FROM STOPPING YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SO YOU'RE NOT HERE TO KILL THIS LITTLE WEASEL...
NO. YOU AREN'T EITHER?
HEY!
I'LL HAPPILY LOCK HIM UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY, BUT I DON'T MURDER. SOMEONE HAS BEEN TAKING OUT THESE HYDRA GUYS SINCE THEY SCATTERED, THOUGH.

BUT YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT. YOU'RE HERE FOR THE SAME REASON AS ME.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU'RE HERE, BARTON.
YES, YOU DO.
HER.

NATASHA ROMANOFF IS ALIVE.
THE BLACK WIDOW IS ALIVE?!
SHUT UP, WEASEL.
BARTON, YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.

NO, BUT I *THINK* IT.
YOU *HOPE*. NOT THE SAME THING.
I FOLLOWED EVERY LEAD I COULD FIND, AND THEY LED ME HERE. SAME AS YOU.
YOU'VE SEEN THE SAME PATTERNS, NOTICED THE SAME STYLE TO ALL THESE KILLS. IT'S HER. TELL ME I'M WRONG...


OR, YA KNOW, SAY ANYTHING.
BUCKY?

THE SOVIET ASSASSIN PROGRAM GAVE EACH OF US A UNIQUE SYMBOL. A CALLING CARD.
SOMETHING WE COULD LEAVE AT THE SCENE OF THE KILL TO MAKE SURE WE GOT CREDIT FOR OUR WORK.
COOL HISTORY LESSON, GRANDPA.

THIS ONE IS NATASHA'S.
SO SHE *WAS* HERE?!
WAIT...

...WHY WOULD SHE LEAVE HER CALLING CARD IF SHE DIDN'T KILL ANYONE?
SEMTEX
OH, NO.
OH, NO--
TO BE CONTINUED!

Mails of SUSPENSE

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, MHEROES@MARVEL.COM MARKED "OKAY TO PRINT"

Hello, dear readers! Matthew Rosenberg here, writer of this issue you are holding in your hands. This is the first issue of TALES OF SUSPENSE for Travel, Rachelle, Clayton and me. The last issue came out in March of 1968. Apologies for the delay. I'm sure your local comic shop clerk has been grumbling about it. Since this is our first issue, we haven't received any letters yet. But I was rummaging around the Marvel office after hours, as I like to do, and I found a bag of mail for TALES OF SUSPENSE #99 in some old, long-forgotten editor's desk. They were buried under some unpublished Jack Kirby pages. I only had time to grab one or the other before security caught me, and I figured we'd all really love to read these letters, right? They're old, they smell weird and something furry definitely made a nest in this bag at some point. Let's dive in!

Hello, Merry Marvel Magicians!

I love Tales of Suspense! It's a total gas. I'm loving the far-out adventures of Iron Man here, but it would be real fun to see him get a comic all his own. Any chance I'll get to see him flying solo on the rack at my local malt shop?

Keep up the good work,
Dan D., Brooklyn, New York

Thanks so much for the letter. Funny you should ask. We actually did give Iron Man his own series! It's been pretty great so far. But if you are just finding out about that now, I have some awkward news...you missed the first 594 issues. Start checking those back-issue bins. And thanks for reading.

Howdy, Tellers of Tales!

I am a big fan of this mag, man. I was worried it was gonna be squaresville, but no way. You all seem like real smart cats writing Iron Man and whatnot. I bet you know a lot about secret science stuff. Do you think the space race is gonna keep going? Are we really going to see a man on the moon? I bet Iron Man gets there first.

Peace and Love,
Katrina M., St. Louis, Missouri

Katrina, that's a great question. As I'm sure you've heard by now, we did put people on the moon! 49 years ago! I don't know if anyone at Marvel had any special insight into that, but I know they made some far-out comics since then. I hope you're still reading. If you aren't dead or whatever...okay.

Hi, Spinners of Suspense!

Thanks for all the fun stories so far. TALES OF SUSPENSE is so spiffy! I was just writing in to beg you to give Captain America his own comic! He's America's greatest hero and, in times like these, we could sure use him. Not trying to knock Gene Colan, but I'd love to see Jack Kirby take Cap out for a spin again. And maybe he could tell all those hippies to get some haircuts in the first issue.

Make Mine Marvel,
Casey B., Cincinnati, Ohio

You all sure liked alliteration back then, huh? Anyway, as you probably noticed Captain America actually did get his own comic! I don't think he accosted any hippies but we did get Jack Kirby to draw it...starting 596 months ago. But the good news is Cap is still going strong. Issue #697 is out real soon. Mark Waid, Chris Samnee and Matthew Wilson are making it...you don't know who those people are.

Greetings, Captains of Comic Booking!

TALES OF SUSPENSE has been far out. I dig what you beautiful people are laying down. But I need to bend your ear for a minute. What's with the price of the comics, man? 12 cents is way too much, daddy-o. My comics used to be 10 cents and it took me a long time to read through my stack. Now I'm paying almost a quarter for two mags and I can read them in under two hours. If the price gets any higher, I gotta get a second job. For 12 cents, I think a comic should come with a car or something. Write me back right away!

Edmond B., Los Angeles, California

Hi, Edmond. Thanks for writing and sorry we didn't get back to you sooner. I'm also sorry about the pricing. I don't really have anything to do with that but I do know we try to keep the books affordable. A lot of work goes into making these books and everyone needs to get paid, though. Hopefully you got a raise at your job so you could keep buying the books. Although, you should have hit retirement age by now. Or died. This might have been a bad idea. Moving on...

Salutations, Sultans of Story!

I'm loving TALES OF SUSPENSE. It's the ginchiest! I love how all the stories are about different far-out characters. I'd love to suggest four cool cats you could put in a story: The Beatles! Let them take a Magical Mystery Tour of the mesmerizing Marvel Universe.

Sock it to me!
Charlotte S., Ridgewood, NJ

Wait...is this my mom? Mom, did you write this? I'm just going to assume it's you. Mom, why the #$!@ would we put the Beatles in TALES OF SUSPENSE? That makes zero #$!@*&% sense.

Greetings, Authors of Adventure!

TALES OF SUSPENSE is the best. The absolute. I really feel like we are in the golden age of far-out adventures. I got TALES OF SUSPENSE in my back pocket, this new show *Star Trek* on the boob tube and this *Planet of the Apes* flick on the silver screen. What could be better? You all deal with the far out, so let me ask you a far-out question, oh wise ones. What does the future hold? What will we be reading, watching and going to see in, say, 50 years?

Yow!
Ramon V., Stockton, California

Hey there, Ramon!
Here we are, 50 years later. Looks like we're gonna be reading TALES OF SUSPENSE, watching *Star Trek* and going to see *Planet of the Apes*. Great.

Howdy, Igniters of Imagination,

This TALES OF SUSPENSE rag is far out. I'm no ding-a-ling, but lemme fly right for a sec. I used to think stuff like this was for ankle biters and clydes. I saw some bookbusters baggin' some food for the brain and thinkin' they were total dudes. I scoped this rag in their mitts and thought, "they must be eatin' grapes off the wallpaper!" But the more I twisted my brain fruit the more I thought they might be huntin' with the right doggy. Now, I'm no Mickey Mouse, I like to get my lips flappin' with a nearby beach bunny or two at the submarine races, but I wasn't gonna be the idiot stick on this. I laid rubber down to the fizz shop and gave him my ten and two in exchange for this here yarn. And all I can say is it's off-the-wall wicked.

Slap it down!
Kelly T., Tampa, Florida

I...I don't...I have no idea what that was. Don't do drugs.

Salutations, Weavers of Wonder!

Been enjoying this here TALES OF SUSPENSE. It's been tip-top so far. I'm pretty nervous about Iron Man being stuck on that

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

sinking ship after Whiplash and the Big M left him. I was thinking though, shouldn't Iron Man have some sort of telephone in his armor so he could call Nick Fury for help? Maybe it could work with orbiting space satellites instead of cables. That would be a way he could get out. Do I get a No-Prize?

XoXo,
Tyler B., Buffalo, New York

Thanks for the suggestion! As we all now know, Iron Man actually survived the sinking ship, as seen in the pages of IRON MAN & THE SUB-MARINER #1, which came out a little over 18,000 days ago. The bad news, Tyler--you do not get a No-Prize for worrying about Iron Man. The good news--you seem to have invented the cell phone 15 years before they became commercially available. If you had sent your idea to a phone company rather than a comic company, you'd probably own an island now. Too bad.

How goes it, Stewards of Super Heroes?

I love TALES OF SUSPENSE. It's squeaky to the fullest! I had a great idea to make the book even better. With Richard Nixon running for President soon, I think it would be the coolest if he appeared in one of your comics. He could team up with Captain America and take on the bad guys. Nixon and old A-Head fighting side by side. What could go wrong?

Keep on keepin' on,
Brenda M., Austin, Texas

Aaaand with that I think we're done. Come back next month for more TALES OF SUSPENSE. And please write us letters! We now accept electronic mail!

NEXT ISSUE:
THE FUGITIVE

ZONE